

## Message Text

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21 11  
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CPR-02 ST-01 PER-05 AID-20 CU-04

L-03 A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 /090 W  
----- 084435

R 250910Z OCT 73  
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1859

UNCLAS YAOUNDE 3523

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EGEN,CM  
SUBJECT: PROBLEMS IN IMPORTING DUTY FREE POVS

1. SUMMARY. TO TIGHTEN UP PREVIOUSLY LEAKY SYSTEM, GURC NOW REQUIRING MEMBERS DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL, AS CONDITION FOR DUTY FREE IMPORTATION POVS TO PRODUCE LOCAL BANK GUARANTY PAYMENT IMPORT CUSTOMS DUTIES SHOULD VEHICLE IMPROPERLY ENTER DOMESTIC MARKET WHEN OWNER DEPARTS CAMEROON. TO OBTAIN NECESSARY BANK GUARANTY OTHER THAN THRU BLOCKED PRIVATE ACCOUNT IN IMPORTING OWNERS NAME, EMBASSY WOULD HAVE IN TURN TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY VIS-A-VIS BANK FOR ANY EVENTUAL DUTIES OF VEHICLE NOT PROPERLY DISPOSED OF.

ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTS (1) DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE RE ACCEPTABILITY OF NEW GURC REGULATION FROM STANDPOINT DIPLOMATIC RIGHTS AND OBLIGATION AND (2) IF APPROPRIATE, AUTHORIZATION COMPLY WITH IT FOR USG PERSONNEL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MID-SEPTEMBER CAMEROON CUSTOMS DIRECTOR ISSUED ORDERS TO CUSTOM OFFICERS (WITH COPY TO FONMIN) THAT PERMITS FOR CUSTOMS-FREE TEMPORARY ADMISSION OF VEHICLES FOR DIPLOMATS OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL PREVIOUSLY ACCORDED ROUTINE APPLICATION FROM EMBASSIES OR AID MISSIONS WOULD HENCEFORTH BE GRANTED ONLY IF EVENTUAL DUTIES IF ANY GUARANTEED BY LOCAL BANK. ACTING DEAN (NIGERIAN) AND LATER DEAN (FRENCH) OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS MADE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEMACHES TO FONMIN SECGEN ON BASIS PRACTICAL EFFECTS SUCH A

PROCEDURE WOULD CREATE (PROBLEM IN RECRUITING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL) AND CONSISTENCY WITH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RIGHTS AND PRACTICES, FONMIN SECGEN REPLIED VIOLATIONS HAVE BEEN VERY NUMEROUS WITH CUSTOMS FREE VEHICLES FILTERING ILLEGALLY ONTO LOCAL MARKET. FONMIN OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO MADE POINT THAT FINANCE MINISTRY IN STRONG POSITION VIS-A-VIS FONMIN IN INSTITUTING NEW SYSTEM. THEY HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS THAT FONMIN IN PROCESS OF PREPARING CIRCULAR NOTE TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OFFICIALLY INFORMING THEM OF NEW SYSTEM. MEANWHILE CUSTOMS HAS BEEN ACTING ON BASIS NEW REGULATION, WITH RESULT THAT DESPITE GRIPPING, SEVERAL MAJOR EMBASSIES AND 10'S HAVE COMPLIED.

3. SYSTEM WORKED OUT BY OTHER EMBASSIES WITH ONLY LOCAL BANK WILLING PROVIDE GUARANTIES (BIAO) AND ONE THAT IT IS WILLING EXTEND TO US, IS THAT EMBASSY (OR 10) SEND BANK LETTER FOR EACH VEHICLE BEING IMPORTED REQUESTING BANK GUARANTY, EMBASSY ASSURES BANK THAT IT IN TURN WILL GUARANTY BANK ""GOOD CONCLUSION"" OPERATION, I.E. BANK WILL BE REIMBURSED FOR ANY CUSTOMS CHARGES IT MAY HAVE TO PAY IN CASE VEHICLE NOT RE-EXPORTED, SOLD TO ANOTHER CUSTOMS PRIVILEGED PURCHASER, OR SOLD ONTO LOCAL MARKET WITH CUSTOMS DULY ACQUITTED. FOR THIS SERVICE, BANK CHARGES ONE EIGHTH OF ONE PER CENT PER MONTH OF AMOUNT GUARANTEED. (CUSTOMS AMOUNTS TO 50 PER CENT OF CIF VALUE FOR EEC-ORIGIN VEHICLES, 90 PERCENT FOR US VEHICLES.)

4. EMBASSY HAS UNTIL NOW NOT HAD ANY PARTICULAR IMPORT CASES TO FACE. WE NOW EXPECTING ARRIVAL IMMINENTLY OF SEVERAL POVS.

5. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED PROVIDE FOLLOWING INFO, GUIDANCE, AND AUTHORITY AS APPROPRIATE:

(A) HAVE OTHER COUNTRIES APPLIED THIS KIND OF GUARANTY SYSTEM? DOES IT VIOLATE OR IS IT INCOMPATIBLE WITH DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES AND/OR RIGHTS, WHETHER UNDER VIENNA CONVENTION OR OTHER AUTHORITY?

(B) IF THERE APPEARS NO FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE BUT TO JOIN OTHER EMBASSIES IN COMPLYING, CAN EMBASSY PROVIDE LETTER TO BANK ALONG LINES INDICATED PARA. 3 FOR DIRECT-HIRE USG PERSONNEL OF OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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VARIOUS AGENCIES (STATE, AID, USIA, PC, USPHS)? WHAT KIND OF PROCEDURE FOR REGUARANTY TO USG WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO PROTECT USG E.G., LETTER FROM EMPLOYEE AUTHORIZING DEDUCTION FROM SALARY AND OTHER MONIES DUE HIM. IF TRANSACTION EVENTUALLY RESULTS IN OBLIGATION TO PAY UNREQUIRED CUSTOMS DUTIES? WE WOULD OF COURSE SET UP SYSTEM LOCALLY FOR ASSURING PAYMENT OF THE ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PER CENT CONTINUING SERVICE CHARGES BY EMPLOYEES INVOLVED AND ALSO RE-INFORCE OUR CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES TO INSURE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE THAT

NO VEHICLES SLIP THROUGH.

6. WE ALSO HAVE OTHER CATEGORIES AMCIT PERSONNEL E.G. AID CONTRACT AND FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS ON WHOM NEW IMPORT REGULATION WOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT. THEIR TERMS OF EMPLOYMENTS MADE TO COVER THEM ALSO THOUGH EMBASSY GUARANTY BANK. WE WILL REPORT BY SEPTEL RE AID CONTRACT PERSONNEL WITH REFERENCE THIS MESSAGE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DUTY FREE ENTRY, DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, AUTOMOBILES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 OCT 1973  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Subject:** PROBLEMS IN IMPORTING DUTY FREE POVS  
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